

**Translation**

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

10/527219  
PCT/JP2003/011513



14 Sept 04

Applicant's or agent's file reference 03-F-067PCT	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/011513	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 September 2003 (09.09.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09 September 2002 (09.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B23K 9/16, 9/23, 35/30		
Applicant NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MATERIALS SCIENCE		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>	
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 22 March 2004 (22.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 08 December 2004 (08.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/011513

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☒ The international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/11513

## Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☐ In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
- ☐ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 relate to a welding method using a material of a low transformation temperature, and only a noble gas or a noble gas mixed with oxygen for a shielding gas.

Claims 5-8 relate to a welding method using a material of a low transformation temperature, wherein reinforcement welding is performed without being affected by a heat history due to welding temperatures.

4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:

- ☒ all parts.
- ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/11513

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	5-11	YES
	Claims	1-4	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

Document 1: JP, 3010211, B1 (Director General of National Research Institute for Science and Technology Agency), 10 December, 1999 (10.12.99)

Document 2: JP, 59-85378, A (Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.), 17 May, 1984 (17.05.84)

Document 3: JP, 6-277847, A (Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., Ltd.), 4 October, 1994 (04.10.94)

The subject matters of claims 1-4 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 cited in the ISR. A person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the idea of TIG-welding using a welding material of a low transformation temperature, as described in cited document 1, and only a rare gas (see cited document 2 (Table)) or a rare gas mixed with oxygen gas (see cited document 2 (table) and document 3 ([0015])) for a shielding gas, as described in cited documents 2 and 3.